

# Two of Eight Indicted In Detroit Spy Case Enter Guilty Pleas star 9-17-43 Confessed Nazi Agents Leonardt and Abt Held In \$25,000 Bond Each

By the Associated Press.

DETROIT, Sept. 17. Carl John Wilhelm Leonhardt, Detroit, and Walter Joseph Abt, Romeo, Mich., two of the eight persons indicted here today on charges of conspiracy under the espionage act, pleaded guilty before Federal Judge Edward J. Moinet this afternoon and were ordered held under \$25,000 bond.

The four women and four men ac-  
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cused of acting as spies for Nazi Germany were indicted today by a Federal grand jury on charges of conspiracy under the Wartime Espionage Act, which carries a possible death penalty.

Six of those indicted have been detained since August 24, when two men and two women were arrested on warrants, and two other women were held as dangerous enemy aliens. Abt and Leonhardt were arrested early today.

Sixteen persons, including residents of Budapest, Stockholm and Lisbon, were named in the indictment returned today as co-conspirators but not as defendants.

## Charge Outlined.

United States Attorney John C. Lehr said the indictment accused the eight of conspiring to "communicate, deliver and transmit to the German Reich and to its various representatives photographs, blueprints, sketches, documents and information generally relating to the national defense of the United States with intent to injure this country and to the advantage of the Nazi government."

The defendants, Mr. Lehr said, are charged with attempting to collect and communicate information on fortification and defense measures and "information with respect to the movements, numbers, descriptions, condition and disposition of

the armed forces as well as to ships, aircraft and war materials of the United States."

## Defendants Listed.

The other six indicted are: Miss Grace Buchanan-Dineen, self-styled "countess" named by Federal authorities as head of the group; Mrs. Emma Elise Leonhardt, Mrs. Theresa Behrens, Detroit; Mrs. Marianne Von Moltke, wife of Heinrich A. Von Moltke, who was dismissed as a German instructor at Wayne University after she was detained as a dangerous alien; Dr. Fred William Thomas, Detroit, and Bertrand Stuart Hoffman, former merchant seaman arrested in New York.

The grand jury which returned the indictments before Federal Judge Edward J. Moinet started its investigation here September 7, with Miss Buchanan-Dineen the principal witness.

## Donay Is Named.

Among the 16 named as co-conspirators is Theodore Donay, Detroit importer now serving a six-year Federal sentence for misprision of treason in connection with the aid given to Oberleutnant Hans Peter Krug, escaped Nazi flyer, by Max Stephan, Detroit restaurant operator. Stephan, originally sentenced to death, is serving a life term for treason.

The indictment states that Donay supplied chemicals and ingredients for invisible writing processes used in sending important information to Germany.

Dr. Heinrich Willmes, former University of Detroit professor of economics who was arrested as a dangerous enemy alien in December, 1941, and later exchanged for an American prisoner in Germany, also was listed as a co-conspirator.